

Ser. No.: 10/526,423

Atty. Docket No.: 6400-0042WOUS

Art Unit: 3676

Amendment and Reply dated March 15, 2007

In Response to Office Action of December 19, 2006

IN THE CLAIMS:

A presentation of all of the pending claims with their current status indicated follows.

Claims 1-6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently amended) A safe comprising:

an inner safe door, an outer safe door, the inner and outer safe doors at least partially overlapping each other, said inner and outer safe doors being pivotable between a closed position covering an opening of the safe and a position releasing said opening, the inner safe door having at least one cutout through which at least a portion of a space defined inside the safe is accessible after the outer safe door is opened, and wherein the remaining inner area is accessible only after both safe doors are opened, and

wherein the inner safe door and the outer safe door each comprise respective dedicated locking mechanisms, and wherein the safe further comprises a safe lock lever mounted to the outer safe door and capable of actuating from the outside of the safe both the outer safe door locking mechanism and the inner safe door locking mechanism such that in the closed position the safe lock lever connects the inner safe door and the outer safe door to each other and locks them to the safe and in a first opening position the safe lock lever unlocks only the outer safe door by on some occasions and actuating only the outer door locking mechanism on other occasions and in a second opening position the safe lock lever actuating only the inner door locking mechanism to keep the inner safe door closed together with the outer safe door so that the joined together doors both open as a single safe door to release the opening and unlock the safe.

Claim 8. (Canceled).

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9. (Currently amended) The safe as defined by claim 7, further comprising different keys for the safe lock lever each key having different unlocking privileges assigned thereto and wherein the outer safe door locking mechanism and the inner safe door locking mechanism can be actuated by a single lock in such a way that a key with a low unlocking privilege is only able to unlock the outer safe door, while both safe doors can be unlocked at the same time with a key of high unlocking privilege.

10. (Currently amended) The safe as defined by claim 7, wherein the safe lock lever is actuatable with a mechanical key.

11. (Currently amended) The safe as defined by claim 7, wherein the safe lock lever is a code lock which can be actuated electrically.

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Please add the following new claims.

-- 12. (New) A safe comprising:

a base plate, a top plate and side walls defining an interior chamber having an opening;

an inner safe door having a first locking mechanism and at least one cutout through which at least a portion of the interior chamber is accessible;

an outer safe door having a second locking mechanism and an outer surface;

wherein the inner safe door and outer safe door at least partially overlap each other and are each pivotable between a closed position covering the opening of the interior chamber and an open position releasing the opening; and

a safe lock lever mounted to the outer surface of the outer safe door, the safe lock lever actuating from the outside of the safe both the first locking mechanism and the second locking mechanism;

wherein in the closed position the safe lock lever connects the inner safe door and the outer safe door to each other over the opening to lock the safe;

wherein in a first open position the safe lock lever unlocks the outer safe door by actuating only the second locking mechanism such that the outer safe door is opened and only the portion of the interior chamber is accessible; and

wherein in a second open position the safe lock lever unlocks the inner safe door by actuating only the first locking mechanism such that the inner safe door and the outer safe door are joined together and opened making the interior chamber fully accessible to unlock the safe.

13. (New) The safe as defined by claim 12, further comprising different keys for the safe lock lever, each of the keys having different unlocking privileges assigned thereto, and wherein the first locking mechanism and the second locking mechanism are actuated such that a key with a low unlocking privilege actuates the second locking mechanism to open the outer safe door, and a key of high unlocking privilege actuates the first locking mechanism to open both the inner and outer safe doors together.

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14. (New) The safe as defined by claim 12, wherein the safe lock lever is actuatable with a mechanical key.

15. (New) The safe as defined by claim 12, wherein the safe lock lever is a code lock which can be actuated electrically.

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